

Engineering Heritage Australia Bulletin: #15

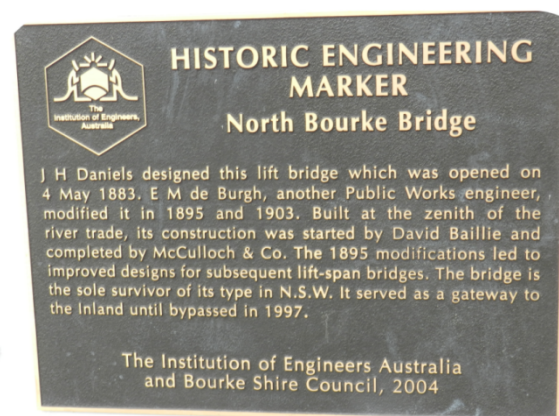
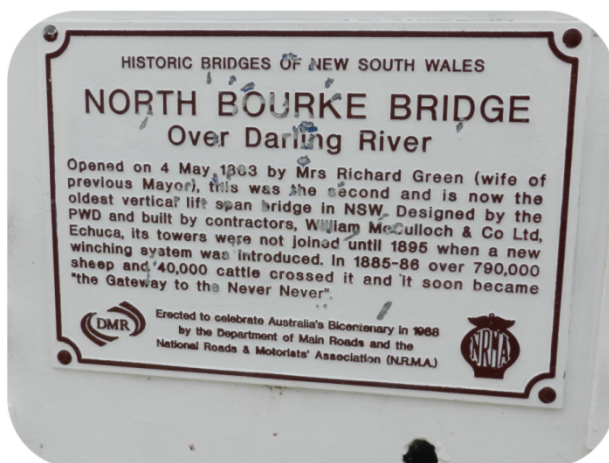
14 January 2022

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"Top 10 Reasons to Visit Bourke".

The recent edition of the Weekend Notes newsletter had an article on "Top 10 Reasons to Visit Bourke". One of the reasons cited was the Old North Bourke Bridge, which has the Engineering Heritage Marker, as shown below:



Other interesting heritage items to check are:

- The 1923 Crossley Engine, which is an example of the industrial heritage.
- Cruise on the PV (Paddle Vessel) Jandra, which passes under the Old North Bourke Bridge and is an example of the movable heritage.

Bourke is about 750km northwest of Sydney, but it is definitely worth visiting. Following is the web link to the article.

<https://www.weekendnotes.com/top-reasons-to-visit-bourke/>

(From Frank Johnson)

A History of Clyde Engineering, Engineers and Manufacturers. The Steam Era: 1898 – 1948

David Jehan BE(Hons), MBT, MIEAust, CPEng. Eveleigh Press 2021 RRP \$90

David Jehan's latest contribution to the record of engineering and manufacturing in Australia is another excellent piece of work, as we have come to expect from him. It takes up where his previous book on Hudson Brothers left off and carries the story through to nominally 1948. This year is chosen as it is the date of the contract between Clyde and EMD to manufacture diesel locomotives, but the narrative extends into the early 1950s as the last steam contracts were finalised. David hints at another tome covering the later half century of diesel manufacture in his introduction where he states:

'Suffice it say the Clyde-EMD history and the products built in the last five decades of the company's operations are not covered here and are worthy of a separate volume.'

It is to be hoped that in this era of dwindling markets and rising costs those of us interested in knowing this story buy a copy of this book and so encourage Jehan and Eveleigh Press to 'complete the job'. At 336 pages of typically high-quality Eveleigh Press production with a hard cover, the work is a 'must have' for anyone interested in engineering or railways. Of course, the cover sports an image of the iconic 3801, but Clyde is about so much more than one locomotive or locomotives in general. A list of the types of things they built could be made here but that would be just to copy the book's contents page. Rather the better question might be - 'What didn't they manufacture?'

The book is a product-based history, rather than a corporate one, and as such is lavishly illustrated with photos and pages from Clyde catalogues. The images alone justify the addition of the book to any collection.

There is a deeper and unstated sub-plot to the book, hinted at by Engineers Australia Heritage leader Neil Hogg in his foreword:

'David Jehan has produced a fascinating history of how a great Australian manufacturing company contributed immensely to creating and sustaining our society. It reminds us of what our predecessors achieved and what we have given away.'

Perhaps words to ponder on, especially in NSW, as a debate is carried on about the near-universal sourcing of trains, trams, and ferries from overseas manufacturers.

Such is the scope of Clyde's manufactures that a single person, even David, could not master it all. He has called on many other practitioners in the field, including this reviewer, to advise and check sections of the work, and these people are acknowledged. This is a courtesy but also emphasises the thoroughness of his work.

The availability of information about Clyde can be strongly credited to Ronald James Drummond who not only worked for the company, but as a man appreciative of history collected and saved records as the company moved locations and eventually closed. His

was the garage to which colleagues took otherwise to-be-discarded volumes when offices were emptied. At the time of writing this review there are only two hard copies of the book in Australia, the bulk in transit at sea. One is with this reviewer, obviously, and the other has been given to Ron who is in his 90th year.

As both a rail historian and deputy chairman of Engineers Australia Heritage Committee in Sydney, I can only commend this book to anyone interested in the history of technology in Australia.

Available February 2022 from the Australian Railway Historical Society (NSW) Bookshop, 5 Henderson Road Alexandria. sales@arhsnsw.com.au

(From Bill Phippen)

Locomotive 3642 overhaul announced

To support growing heritage train experiences, both at the NSW Rail Museum and across NSW, Transport Heritage NSW will be returning steam locomotive 3642 to regular service.

While the 95-year-old veteran has largely remained in active service since its retirement from the NSW Government Railways in 1969, it was temporarily withdrawn from heritage service in 2018 for future overhaul.

3642 will provide the necessary power required to tackle steep grades on future Loop Line services to Colo Vale, as well as additional fleet support for regular mainline heritage train experiences.

The overhaul will commence in 2022, following the completion of the Locomotive 3001 project at the NSW Rail Museum, Thirlmere.

For more information please refer to the link below:

<https://www.thnsw.com.au/post/locomotive-3642-overhaul-announced><https://www.thnsw.com.au/post/locomotive-3642-overhaul-announced>

(From Firas Shawash)

Southern Cross aircraft (replica)-

What a great day at HARS Aviation Museum with full-engine start-up and then first taxi of our Southern Cross in nearly 20 years with assigned pilots David Thiess and John Daley taking turns in the left seat alongside Project Manager and Chief Engineer Jim Thurstan. The aircraft is an exact replica of the first aircraft to link the US to Australia in 1928 by renowned aviator Charles Kingsford Smith and, based in South Australia, flew from the Bicentennial Year of 1988 through damage on landing in May 2002 and was acquired by HARS, Albion Park NSW, in 2010 where it's been painstakingly & lovingly restored by volunteers.

On 30 December 2021, the Southern Cross made two engine start-ups and taxi exercises with pilots & crew highly satisfied and looking forward to flight status in the new year.

Following is the web link to the video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x3QPk-ep2Aw>

(From Doug Boleyn)

Australian Heritage Festival – National Trust

The Australian Heritage Festival is Australia's largest annual community-driven heritage festival. Returning in 2022 with the new theme Curiosity, the festival is set to bring heritage to life through celebration, encouraging the community to actively wonder, investigate, and learn about natural, cultural, Indigenous, living, and built heritage around the nation.

Following is the web link to the Australian Heritage Festival 2022.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/ahf/>

(From Max Underhill)

Contributions needed

Readers are invited to share news, bright ideas, issues of concern, advice about online talks – anything that would be of interest and helpful to others, by sending them to editor Firas Shawash at fshawash@yahoo.com for inclusion in the next Bulletin - more Australia-wide content would be appreciated.

Frank Johnson
Chair, Engineering Heritage Sydney